

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00139 310154Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSY-02 OMB-01 /061 W  
-----312022Z 073644 /43

R 302030Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 944  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL TORONTO POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, ECON, CA  
SUBJECT: QUEBEC STUDY SEEN AS PQ POLITICAL COUP

REF: MONTEAL 0515

1. QUEBEC'S STUDY ON COST OF CONFEDERATION (REFTEL) IS SEEN AS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL COUP HERE WHERE THERE IS LESS INTEREST STATISTICAL METHODOLOGY. REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION OVER TECHNIQUE OF STUDY, FEELING PERSISTS THAT PQ HAS ACHIEVED IMPORTANT PUBLIC RELATIONS GAIN BY FIRING FIRST SHOT IN BATTLE LIKELY TO RAGE UNTIL REFERENDUM IS HELD. THIS STUDY WILL BE BASIS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION. IT IS NOW UP TO FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND OTHERS TO DISPROVE THE PQ STUDY. WHETHER THIS CAN BE DONE OR NOT, ARGUMENTS WILL BE TECHNICAL IN NATURE AND UNLIKELY HAVE SAME IMPACT ON PUBLIC AS INITIAL RELEASE OF STUDY COMPLETE WITH FANFARE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. IN FACT, SENSITIVE QUEBECOIS MAY INSTINCTIVELY REACT AGAINST ANY CONCERTED OTTAWA ATTEMPT RIDICULE STUDY DONE BY "HOME-TOWN BOYS."

2. STUDY WAS NOT INTENDED PLEASE FINANCIAL EXPERTS OR ECONOMETRICIANS  
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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00139 310154Z

EITHER HERE OR IN OTTAWA. IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DONE PRIMARILY FOR POLITICAL IMPACT ON DOMESTIC FRONT. AUTHORS OF REPORT NO DOUBT EXPECT EXPERT CRITICISM BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY IN DEFINING METHODOLOGY OF SUCH A VAST STUDY. POLITICAL LEADERS LEVESQUE AND TREMBLAY DISARMED MUCH OF POSSIBLE CRITICISM BY POINTING OUT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES SUCH A STUDY PRESENTS, BY CITING STATISTICS CANADA FIGURES AS FAR AS THEY WERE AVAILABLE, AND

BY OBSERVING THAT ABSOLUTE BENEFITS OF FEDERATION ARE FARE FAR FROM  
QUANTIFIABLE AND THUS CAN NOT BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A STUDY.  
INSIDE OBSERVERS WERE NOT SURPRISED BY EARLY PUBLICATION  
OF SUCH A STUDY AS PQ ECONOMISTS HAVE LONG BEEN RESEARCHING TOPIC.  
INDEED, A STUDY DRAWING SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS ON ECONOMIC  
DISADVANTAGES FOR QUEBEC APPEARED IN EARLY 1975 IN BOOK ENTITLED  
L'ECONOMIE DU QUEBEC, CARRY AN INTRODUCTION BY FIN MIN AND LONG  
TIME PQ ECONOMIC STRATEGIST JACQUES PARIZEAU. OTHER ECONOMIC AND  
NON-ECONOMIC GOQ STUDIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM INTERGOVERN-  
MENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY. QUEBECOIS WILL WEIGH THEM ALONG WITH  
MANY INTANGIBLE FACTORS IN MAKING FINAL DECISION. BUT, AS REFTEL  
CONCLUDES, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PQ HAS SCORED AN INITIAL  
PROPAGANDA VICTORY DESIGNED TO FRAME ITS CASE IN EYES OF GENERAL  
PUBLIC.  
MCNAMARA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, FINANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, STUDIES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 MONTEVIDEO 515  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, ECON, CA  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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